

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00573 261626Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9417

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, JM
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT-DRAFT

REF: STATE 019884

DRAFT REPORT ON OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN JAMAICA CONTAINED REFTEL IS AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF SITUATION CURRENTLY OBTAINING. TO ENHANCE ITS ACCURACY, HOWEVER, WE RECOMMEND FOLLOWING CHANGES:

A. THE THIRD SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL SEEMS A BIT FLAT-FOOTED. PERHAPS IT MIGHT MORE SAFELY READ AS FOLLOWS: "JAMAICA'S DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD REFLECTS NOT SIMPLY ITS HERITAGE BUT A PRESENT COMMITMENT TO AN OPEN AND FREE SOCIETY."

B. THE FIRST SENTENCE IN SUB-SECTION C, "ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT", IN PARAGRAPH 3 IS MISLEADING. THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS IMPOSED IN MID-1976 IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL THE WORSENING INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION. THERE WAS NO OVERT INDICATION THAT AN ELECTION WOULD BE HELD IN DECEMBER, 1976; RATHER, INDI-
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PAGE 02 KINGST 00573 261626Z

CATIONS SUGGESTED THAT THE ELECTION WOULD BE HELD EARLY IN 1977. WE RECOMMENDED SIMPLY THAT THE WORD "PRE-ELECTION" BE DELETED.

C. WE THINK THAT FOURTH SENTENCE UNDER SECTION A, "FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, PRESS, RELIGION, AND ASSEMBLY", IN PARA-

GRAPH 5 WOULD BE ENHANCED BY DOING THE
FOLLOWING:

(1) DELETE THE PERIOD AND REPLACE IT
WITH A COMMA.

(2) ADD THE WORDS "ALTHOUGH THERE IS
CONCERN AMONG JAMAICANS OVER
WHETHER THE SAME ACCESS EXISTS IN
THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA WHERE THE
GOVERNMENT IS THE SOLE OWNER
OF THE RADIO AND TELEVISION
NETWORKS."

D. RE SECTION B, "FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT
WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL
AND EMIGRATION", IN PARAGRAPH 5, THE
AMOUNT OF MONEY WHICH JAMAICANS MAY
CARRY FROM THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE
SPECIFIED AS U.S. DOLLARS.

IRVING

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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